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Australia

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Review of Permitted Seeds List for Australia

2006

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Report Highlights:

Biosecurity Australia is conducting a review of the list of plant seeds that are allowed entry to Australia, known as the permitted seeds list. The review involves replacing 2913 genus-level listings, currently on the permitted seeds list, with the species within those genera that are already present in Australia.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

Biosecurity Australia (BA) is conducting a review of the list of plant seeds that are allowed entry to Australia, known as the permitted seeds list (Schedule 5 of the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998*). The review involves replacing 2913 genus-level listings, currently on the permitted seeds list, with the species within those genera that are already present in Australia.

The review of the permitted seeds list is intended to protect Australia's pest and disease free status, by not permitting exotic weedy species into the country, while also complying with international obligations by ensuring that species already present in Australia and not under official control are not prohibited.

Biosecurity Australia is inviting stakeholders to comment on a list of species thought to be in Australia and proposed to remain on the permitted seeds list.

Please note that Biosecurity Australia intends to keep the family Orchidaceae on Schedule 5 of the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998* (permitted seeds list). However, all current genera within the family Orchidaceae will be removed as they are already permitted under the family-level listing.

The removal of genus-level entries from the permitted seeds list is not a blanket exclusion of those species that are not included on the permitted seeds list. Importers can approach AQIS and seek a Weed Risk Assessment on any plant species to determine its weed risk to Australian agriculture and/or the environment. Provided the assessment concludes the weed potential is low and there are no other quarantine concerns the species would be added to the permitted seeds list and imports allowed.

To streamline the review process, Biosecurity Australia has developed a website that will allow users to view the list of species, and submit comments online. The web site includes more detailed information on the review and can be accessed at:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=B85A9DF7-7A0C-44AF-B14EAD3F93A18DFD>. **Please note this web site will only be accessible for the 60-day consultation period between 15 May 2006 and 14 July 2006.**

Each stakeholder can only make one submission, however the electronic system allows your work to be saved as you progress through the comment process and return to the same place as often as you require before it is finally submitted to BA. To make a comment, you will have to register as a stakeholder which can be done through the above website. You will be given a unique username and password to log into the system. Once you have completed your comments, your password will be automatically de-activated and you will be unable to make further comments. Further details are available on the website. Please direct any questions about the permitted seeds list review by email or letter to:

Permitted Seeds List Review
Biosecurity Australia
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Ph: +61 2 6272 5094
Fax: +61 2 6272 3307
Email: permittedseedslist@daff.gov.au

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Recent Reports from FAS/Canberra

The reports listed below can all be downloaded from the FAS website at:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>.

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
6001	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual	12/28/05
6002	Ag DownUnder, Issue 1	01/13/06
6003	Health Claims & Sugar Content of Fresh Fruit	01/24/06
6004	Livestock Semi Annual	02/08/06
6005	Fine Food 2006 Trade Show – Australia	01/27/06
6006	Ag DownUnder Vol. 2	01/27/06
6007	Comment Period for Proposed Health Claims Standard Extended	02/06/06
6008	Tree Nuts Annual	02/09/06
6009	Ag DownUnder Vol. 3	02/15/06
6010	Cotton Quarterly Update	02/24/06
6011	Comment Sought on Feasibility of Extending Country of Origin Labeling	02/28/06
6012	Biosecurity Australia Begins Assessment of U.S. Stone Fruit for Import	03/08/06
6013	The Corish Report: "Creating Our Future: Ag & Food Policy for the Next Generation"	03/08/06
6014	New Guide Available for Country of Origin Labeling	03/09/06
6015	AgDownunder Vol. 4	03/10/06
6016	Cyclone Larry Affects Sugar Industry	03/21/06
6017	Grain Annual	03/21/06
6018	Fortification of Cereal-Based Beverages	03/22/06
6019	Ag Down Under Vol 5	03/24/06
6020	Stone Fruit Annual	04/03/06
6021	AMP Mid-Year Review	04/12/06
6022	Grains Week Features 'Discussion Paper' Proposing Radical Changes to Single Desk	04/12/06
6023	Sugar Annual	04/13/06
6024	Ag Down Under Vol 6	04/21/06
6025	Grain Quarterly Lockup	05/01/06
6026	Ag Down Under Vol 7	05/09/06
6027	Cotton & Products Annual	05/15/06
6028	Justification for Requirement for Wood Packaging Material to be Bark Free	05/15/06